

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 55 is currently amended

Claims 59-60 are requested to be cancelled.

After amending the claims as set forth above, Claims 1-11 and 34-58 are now pending in this application, of which Claims 1, 50, 53, and 55 are independent.

Interview Summary

An interview was conducted with the examiner Loney on May 24, 2004. Stanger et al. was discussed and it was agreed that Stanger et al. does not teach or suggest all of the elements of Claims 1-11 and 34-58.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 59-60 were rejected under § 102. Applicants respectfully disagree with the grounds for rejection stated in the Office Action, but have cancelled Claims 59-60 to facilitate prosecution of the remaining claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

On page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-11 and 34-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,931,083 to Stanger et al.

As discussed during the interview, Stanger et al. does not teach or suggest each of the elements of Claims 1-11 and 34-58.

Meaning of Transverse

Applicant believes that the examiner may have assigned a narrower meaning to “transverse” than given by the Applicant. The examiner is invited to reread the patent specification to understand the broader meaning given to transverse by the Applicant.

Height Ranges of Claims 1-11 and 34-54

Claim 1 recites “wherein the ribs raised above the first face are raised above the first face by about 0.02 inches to about 0.05 inches.” None of the references cited in this case teaches ribs having these ranges. Further, nothing in any of the references provides a motivation to form a belt having these ranges. For instance, it is unlikely that a transmission belt such as Stecklein would have ribs with the recited height ranges of Claim 1. Claims 2-11 and 34-54 have similar limitations.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

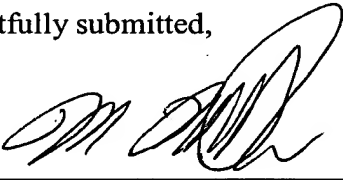
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to

Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date May 27, 2004

By  _____

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